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To: Docket Management System
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room 401
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C., 20590-0001

From: The Staff of the Lakefront Airport Fire Dept.
New Orleans Lakefront Airport
8558 Lloyd Stearman Dr.
New Orleans, La., 70126

03 FEB 20 01 24 1

Re: "Comments to FAA Docket No. FAA-2003-14246"
Privatization of New Orleans Lakefront Airport

We the undersigned, having been made aware of many questionable activities of the company called AAC, would like to make the following comments on the impact that such privatization will make on the aviation industry, the taxpayers of New Orleans and all of Louisiana, and last but not least, our own jobs,- our livelihood.

It would seem that with all the questionable discrepancies which have been uncovered, including a 50 year lease, that all parties involved would be better served by not rolling the dice with a with a company like AAC, but looking for a solid, reputable firm.

Our Jobs; We are all full time, paid, state civil service firefighters, working for the Orleans Levee District at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport. During this entire examination of the privatization program, our dept. has been treated/regarded as though we did not exist. If the Orleans Levee District had been concerned about our jobs and the protection afforded the aviation industry at this airport, they could have easily installed in the bid proposal, that the fire dept. be retained by leasing us from the State. Almost "all" firefighters throughout the U.S. are civil service employees, guaranteeing that there is some type of fire protection for tax-paying citizens. If the company (AAC in this case) is reputable, solid, and planning to advance the airport to a higher level, then they should be able to afford this expenditure, and if not, then why are they being awarded this contract. Instead, the Orleans Levee District has proposed a "Lay-Off plan" for our dept.

AAC has made one feeble attempt at talking to us-the firefighters. We believe that this was simply for "show only", as it was stated in the bid contract that they "interview" the employees of the airport. AAC gave none of us, any specifics on pay, hours, benefits, and whether they actually intended to even hire us. This was over 8 months ago, and not one single firefighter has heard back from them. AAC's capital improvement plan for the fire dept. only calls for \$61,000 up to the year of 2013. How absurd is this, when our fire truck is over 12 years old and your own FAA inspectors continue to annually tell the Orleans Levee District management that our fire station is too small. Knowing all that has been discovered about this company-AAC, we, the firefighters, would have to be very leary of working for this private firm.

In the aftermath of 9/11, and with the continuing war against terrorism, it would seem that "Fire", Police, Military, and Security should be of major concern. The fire station at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport has been manned by civil service employees for many years. A private company like AAC does not guarantee that this protection will be there. In recent years past, the New Orleans Lakefront Airport was the busiest airport in Louisiana. The N.O.L.A. serves as a sister airport to the Louis Armstrong International Airport taking on an extremely high flow of traffic during such events as the Sugar Bowl, Super Bowl, Mardi Gras, and the Final Four just to name a few. We implore you to take a long, hard look at this company—AAC, keeping us,-the firefighters at this airport in mind with regard to this entire process.

We thank you for your consideration.

Capt. Robert Sweet

Capt. Tony Holm

F/F Kevin C. Kanyriaraya

F/F Jim Baudra #7

F/F C. J. Broun

F/F Ray C. Marks -

F/F James L. Wright